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Fall 9-1-2017

### MUSI 559.00: Composition

Emilie LeBel

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**Composition III, MUSI 380**  
**Composition IV, MUSI 480**  
**Composition, MUSI 559**  
**University of Montana**

Dr. Emilie LeBel

emilie.lebel@umontana.edu

Office: Room 203

Office hours: Mondays 9am to 10am; Wednesday and Friday mornings, by appointment

Class times: By appointment

Course description:

MUS 380, 480, and 559 are weekly private lessons in composition, and project-based studies that cover the theory and realization of various compositional techniques and concepts. Students will explore the craft of musical composition through the creation of original music. They will also study techniques and repertoire of composers from the past century.

Course Objectives:

- To understand the fundamentals of contemporary art music composition
- To develop one's own compositional voice and artistic interests
- To develop knowledge of a broad range of contemporary art music repertoire
- To gain experience thinking critically about contemporary music

Required materials:

- Manuscript paper, pencils, eraser, and a ruler
- Listening assignments, readings, and additional materials as assigned

General expectations:

- ***My expectation is that students are setting aside at least 2 to 4 hours per day to work on your composition studies.***
- Active participation in weekly lesson activities by showing up prepared with composition work, and/or other materials to review.
- Provide paper scores for each of your weekly lessons, so that you we can mark up your work, ***please do bring not simply bring in your scores on your laptop***
- Reviewing assigned listening and reading, so that you are able to actively participate discussions and activities
- Attendance at concerts and special events related to the composition program is **mandatory**
- You are responsible for checking your university email account regularly for updates / communications
- If you are unable to attend a lesson, please advise Dr. LeBel at least 24 hours in advance via email
- Any late assignments for the term will not be accepted after Friday December 15, 2017. No exceptions.

Schedule:

Lessons will be scheduled by appointment, in my office, room 203.

Evaluation and assignments:

Students will formulate a written work-plan that details their planned projects and goals for the semester. ***This plan should be prepared for the first lesson of the semester.*** This will include composition work (typically two chamber compositions a semester), but may also include repertoire study, theory, and other supplementary work that will support one's learning goals. In consultation with Dr. LeBel, this plan will be finalized during the first lesson.

In addition to weekly composition work, students are expected to listen and study at least 10 works/pieces during the semester. This will be a combination of repertoire through self-directed work and recommendations from Dr. LeBel. Students will keep a log of these activities, including title of the piece, composer, and brief notes on concepts they discovered that they may wish to apply to their own work.

A grade will be assigned based on adhering to the general expectations of the course (outlined above), including: attendance, creative effort/growth, commitment to developing new skills, consistent and continual progress throughout the semester, incorporating feedback from lessons into one's composition work, the completion of a listening log/list, and the completion of all tasks outlined in one's work-plan.

During the last lesson of the term students will review with Dr. LeBel how they achieved the goals of their semester work plan, and score study log.

Attendance is mandatory. ***Excessive absences and late arrivals will be reflected in your final grade.***

Academic honesty:

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the "Student Conduct Code" available here: [http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student\\_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php).

We take violations very seriously and they will be noted on student disciplinary records. We will not tolerate any dishonesty or plagiarism. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with me before you complete any relevant requirements of the course.

Disability services:

If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable program modifications in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program modifications. If you are already working with Disability Services arrange to meet with me during my office hours to discuss reasonable modifications that may be necessary. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

Course Schedule & Important Dates:

- Week 1: September 4

*Labour Day - no classes on September 4*

No composition lessons this week

Composers Forum - Thursday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1-2pm

- Week 2: September 11

- Week 3: September 18

- Week 4: September 25

- Week 5: October 2

Composers Forum - Thursday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1-2pm

- Week 6: October 9

- Week 7: October 16

- Week 8: October 23

- Week 9: October 30

Composers Forum - Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1-2pm

- Week 10: November 6

*Veterans Day - no classes November 10*

**\*\*New Music Missoula Concert – Thursday November 9th**

- Week 11: November 20

*American Thanksgiving - no classes November 22-26*

- Week 12: November 27

- Week 13: December 4

*Last full week of classes!*

Final meetings with Dr. LeBel

Composers Forum - Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1-2pm

- Week 14: December 11

*Last two days of classes!*

Final meetings with Dr. LeBel

- Week 15: December 18

*No classes or exams for this class!*